

Message Text

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17

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

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FM AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 288

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PORT MORESBY

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY SUVA

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

USLO PEKING

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L WELLINGTON 2952

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM MARR NZ XP

SUBJ: SOUTH PACIFIC NUCLEAR WEAPONS FREE ZONE (SPNFZ)

REF: A) WELLINGTON 2809, DTG 240035Z SEP 75 (NOTAL)

B) WELLINGTON 2431, DTG 210420Z AUG 75

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. IN OCTOBER 3 SPEECH, PM ROWLING ADDRESSED HIMSELF TO QUESTION OF DISARMAMENT IN GENERAL AND SPNFZ IN PARTICULAR. ROWLING TOOK A FEW CAUTIOUS STEPS TOWARD CLARIFYING SPNFZ PROPOSAL. END SUMMARY.

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2. SECTION OF SPEECH DEALING WITH SPNFZ FOLLOWS:

QUOTE

A. BUT THERE IS SOMETHING ELSE WE CAN DO. A WAY IN WHICH WE CAN AGAIN TAKE THE INITIATIVE. WHERE WE CAN AGAIN DEMONSTRATE THE POWER OF SMALL COUNTRIES--IF THEY WORK TOGETHER--TO CHANGE THE COURSE OF WORLD HISTORY. AND THAT IS TO MAKE SURE THAT OUR AREA--THE SOUTH PACIFIC REGION--DOESN'T GET CAUGHT UP IN THIS MAD ARMS RACE. THAT'S A LEGITIMATE AIM. WE LIVE HERE. SO DO THE SAMOANS, THE FIJIANS, THE PEOPLE OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA WHO-VE JUST LAUNCHED THEMSELVES ON TO THE INTERNATIONAL STAGE.

B. WE'VE A RIGHT, THE PEOPLES OF THE SOUTH PACIFIC, TO KEEP OUR DESTINY IN OUR OWN HANDS. WE'VE SEEN WHAT'S HAPPENED IN THE INDIAN OCEAN AREA. IT'S SUPPOSED TO BE A ZONE OF PEACE. BUT IT'S NOT. IT'S BECOME AN AREA OF RIVALRY AND CONFRONTATION. IT'S A ZONE OF TENSION--OF POTENTIAL DANGER. WE DON'T WANT THAT TO HAPPEN HERE. BUT WE HAVE TO ACT NOW, BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE. THAT'S WHY WE'VE LAUNCHED OUR PROPOSAL FOR MAKING THE SOUTH PACIFIC A NUCLEAR-WEAPON-FREE ZONE. WE WANT TO KEEP NUCLEAR WEAPONS OUT OF THE SOUTH PACIFIC--TO TELL THE NUCLEAR POWERS THAT IT'S 'HANDS OFF' SO FAR AS OUR REGION IS CONCERNED.

C. AT THIS VERY MOMENT WE'RE ASKING THE UNITED NATIONS TO ENDORSE THAT PROPOSAL. TO CALL ON THE COUNTRIES OF THE REGION TO WORK OUT A PRACTICAL SCHEME TO MAKE THAT CONCEPT A REALITY. THE INDICATIONS ARE THAT WE--THE COUNTRIES OF THE SOUTH PACIFIC--ARE GOING TO GET A GREAT DEAL OF SUPPORT. BECAUSE IT'S A SENSIBLE AND PRACTICAL APPROACH. BECAUSE IT'S A MOVE IN KIIPING WITH THE TIMES.

D. I'M NOT PRETENDING IT'S GOING TO BE EASY; THERE ARE MANY PROBLEMS INVOLVED. IT'S GOING TO TAKE TIME--AND A GREAT DEAL OF DISCUSSION AND COMPROMISE--TO GET A SCHEME THAT MEETS EVERYONE'S INTERESTS. ONE THAT DOESN'T UPSET THE BALANCE ON WHICH PEACE DEPENDS. ONE OF THE

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MAJOR HURDLES WILL BE HOW FAR WE CAN BRING THE HIGH SEAS INTO THE ZONE. WE CAN BAND TOGETHER, THE COUNTRIES OF THE SOUTH PACIFIC, TO PREVENT THE TESTING, MAKING AND STATIONING OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS IN THE AREAS UNDER OUR CONTROL. BUT WE CAN'T, WITHOUT THEIR COOPERATION, PREVENT THE MAJOR POWERS FROM SENDING THEIR NUCLEAR-ARMED SUBMARINES AND SHIPS INTO THE VAST WATERS OF THE SOUTH PACIFIC. WE COULDN'T DETECT THEM, LET ALONE STOP THEM.

E. WE'VE GOT TO WORK WITH THE NUCLEAR POWERS, AS WELL AS WITH OUR NEIGHBOURS, IF WE ARE TO MAKE PROGRESS. AND THAT WE ARE DOING--AT EVERY STAGE, IN PUTTING OUR PROPOSALS FORWARD. THAT'S THE WAY TO GET PROGRESS. BY PUTTING EMPHASIS ON DISCUSSION AND COOPERATION. BY TACKLING THE PROBLEMS ON A SENSIBLE STEP-BY-STEP BASIS. YOU DON'T OVERCOME DIFFICULTIES BY IGNORING THEM--OR BY DOING NOTHING TO DEAL WITH THEM. YOU SETTLE THEM BY COMPROMISE AND AGREEMENT.

F. THE POINT I WANT TO MAKE IS THAT BY LAUNCHING OUR NUCLEAR FREE ZONE WE'VE STARTED ON THE RIGHT WAY TO KEEP OUR AREA A ZONE OF PEACE. WE HAVE THE SUPPORT OF OUR SOUTH PACIFIC NEIGHBOURS. WE'RE GOING ALL OUT NOW TO GET THE SUPPORT OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY FOR THE CONCEPT ITSELF. THEN WE GET THE COUNTRIES DIRECTLY INVOLVED TO SIT DOWN AND HAMMER OUT AN ACCEPTABLE AND WORKABLE SCHEME WHICH WILL MAKE IT A REALITY.

G. IT WILL TAKE TIME, BUT WE'LL MAKE PROGRESS. AND IN THE COURSE OF DOING SO WE'LL MAKE SURE THAT NUCLEAR WEAPONS DO NOT COME INTO THE TERRITORIES OF OUR REGION; WE'LL HELP STOP THE SPREAD OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS, WE'LL GIVE NEW IMPETUS TO THE MOVE TO BAN ALL FORMS OF TESTING, TO THE AIM OF GETTING REAL DISARMAMENT. AND EACH STEP FORWARD WILL LESSEN THE SUSPICION AND DISTRUST WHICH LIES BEHIND THIS FEARFUL ARMS RACE. UNQUOTE

3. IT IS NOTEWORTHY THAT ROWLING DID NOT MENTION THE PREVENTION OF TRANSIT AS ONE OF OBJECTIVES OF THE PROPOSAL. HE ALSO TOOK SOME PAINS TO STRESS PROBLEMS OF TRYING TO POLICE THE SOUTH PACIFIC.

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4. COMMENT. IN DISCUSSION WITH EMBOFFS AND EA/ANP COUNTRY DIRECTOR, MFA DEPUTY SECRETARY SCOTT (PROTECT SAID MFA HAD PROVIDED ROWLING WITH DRAFT COMMENTS ON SPNFZ AND THAT PRIME MINISTER HAD PICKED UP SOME OF THE POINTS CONTAINED THEREIN. SCOTT SAID THERE WOULD BE OTHER OCCASIONS DURING ELECTION CAMPAIGNING FOR ROWLING TO FURTHER CLARIFY PROPOSAL AND THAT MFA INTENDED CONTINUE ITS EFFORTS TO MOVE PRIME MINISTER IN RIGHT DIRECTION.
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